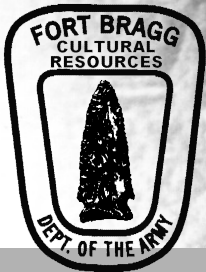




**The Overhills
Historic District
Showcasing 100 Year s
of History**



Cultural Resources Program, Fort Bragg, North
Carolina

A New Century, A New Purpose

In the late 19th century, the Overhills land belonged to Daniel McDiarmid a local merchant who operated a pine tar, pitch and turpentine plantation. The modern history of the Overhills tract began ca. 1901 when William Johnston, a wealthy ship owner from Liverpool, England, purchased the land as a game preserve.



Stereo photographs, ca.1903: "Distilling Turpentine From The Crude Resin In The Pine Forests Of North Carolina" (left) and "In the Great pine forest of the south - Gathering Crude Turpentine" (right).

Humble Beginnings 1900 - 1910

Johnston's plans for an elite hunt club never materialized, and after only a few years and apparently few improvements to the land, he sold the tract. In 1906, General John Gill of Baltimore and James T. Woodward of New York purchased the land and incorporated the *Croatan Club of Manchester*. Of the few structures remaining from this period, the



The Kent-Jordan Decade (1911-1921)

The *Croatan Club of Manchester* changed hands again in 1911, and flourished under this new leadership. The formation of the Kent-Jordan Company, with Jordan as the guiding force, signaled the beginning of an extended period of expansion and improvements at Overhills. The partnership established the *Overhills Country Club* in 1913 and enlarged the estate,



The original Overhills Clubhouse was constructed circa 1914 in a grand Craftsman style. It was demolished by the Rockefeller family in 1945.

The Overhills Historic District

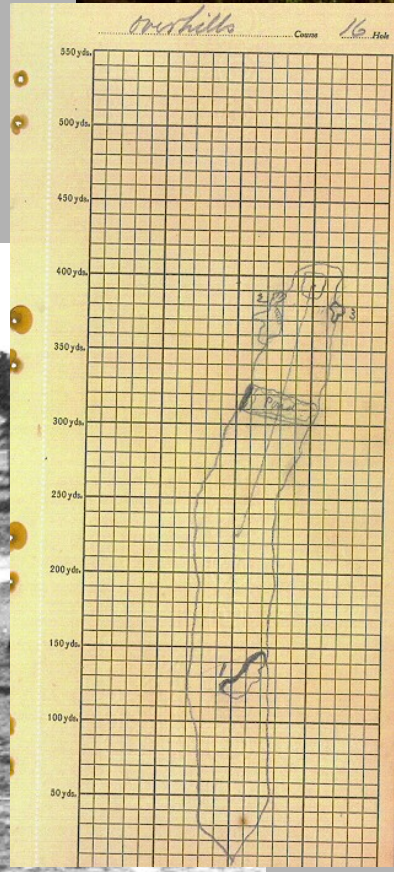
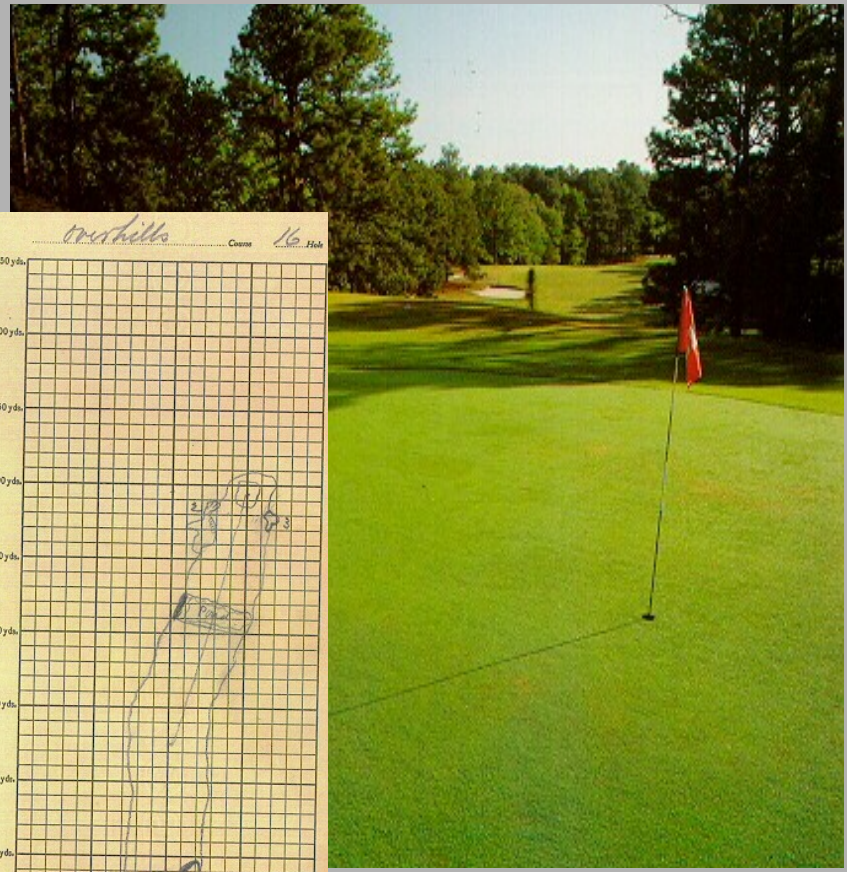
Donald Ross and Overhills (1910-1920)

The links course was designed by the noted golf course architect, Donald J. Ross. One of America's premier designers of golf courses, Ross emigrated from Scotland in 1898, having apprenticed at St. Andrews, Scotland. By the turn of the century, Ross was the winter professional and greens keeper at Pinehurst, where he built the first of his great golf courses. From 1910 until his death in 1948, Ross was the most active and arguably the finest golf course architect in the United States. The firm of Donald J. Ross and Associates had winter offices at Pinehurst and summer offices in Rhod... In the twentieth century, US and Canada, in



The Overhills Historic District

Donald Ross and Overhills (1910-1920)



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The J. Van Lindley Nursery (1911-1932)



In 1911, the J. Van Lindley Nursery Company bought 650 acres of Overhills for nursery fields. The Greensboro company enjoyed a reputation as one of the South's premier growers of cut flowers and

Because the development of the nursery stock growing fields coincided with the creation of the Overhills Country Club, it is assumed that the landscaping on the Hill came from the nursery during the 1910s and 1920s. The nursery grew so quickly that a freight station (in the Entrance Compound) had to be built in the early 1920s to move The Overhills Historic District



The Kent-Jordan Decade (1911-1921)

In 1916, Percy Avery Rockefeller first visited Overhills. He would later become a pivotal figure in the development of the estate. Percy Rockefeller was a scion of one of America's most powerful families of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His uncle, the legendary John Davison Rockefeller of New York, amassed a fabulous fortune as an industrialist and banker, and later became one of America's foremost philanthropists.



The Kent-Jordan Decade (1911-1921)



When Percy Rockefeller revisited Overhills in late winter 1917, among the other guests was another key figure in the history of the estate, William Averell Harriman. A prominent businessman from one of America's wealthiest families and one of the country's most influential public officials (and later governor of New York), Harriman's initial interest in Overhills was as a polo player. In 1918, Harriman demonstrated his commitment to Overhills by building a private cottage next to the Overhills Clubhouse.

The End of an Era



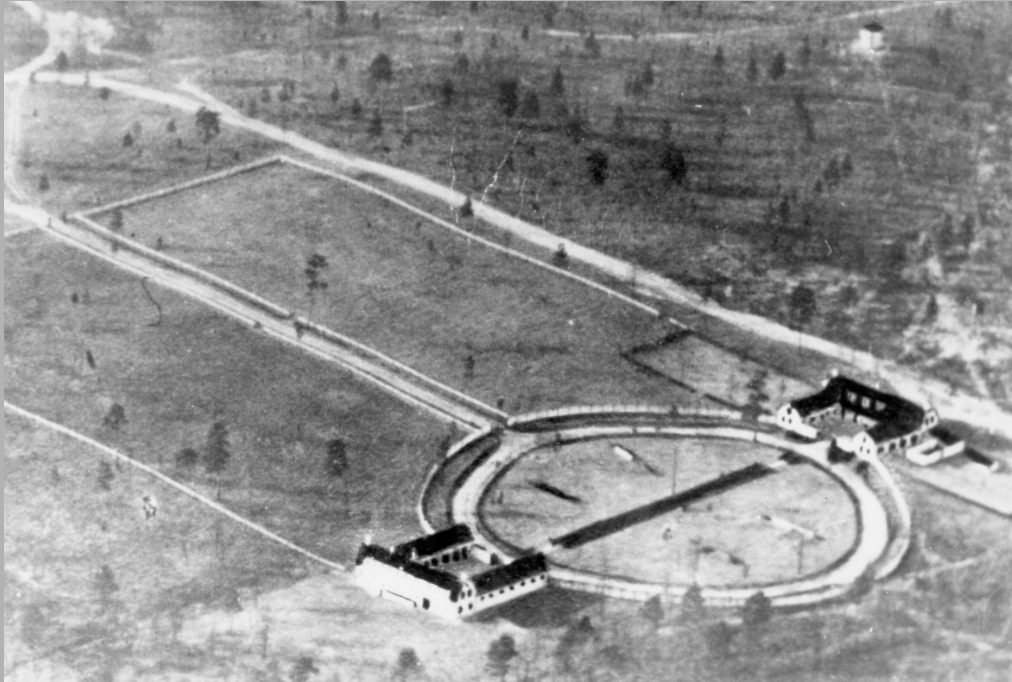
In 1917, Kent and Jordan transferred their holdings to the Kent-Jordan Company. Rockefeller and Harriman soon became the key financial contributors to the company with Rockefeller owning the majority of the property. Kent withdrew from the company in 1917, Jordan died two years later, and in 1921, Rockefeller and Harriman formed the new Overhills Land Company, Inc., which acquired all lands and other property of the Overhills estate. As Rockefeller gained controlling interest, ^{The Overhills Historic District} Overhills began its most

The Roaring Twenties

The 1920s were banner years at Overhills. Its elite membership, succinctly described in one newspaper account as “a wealthy syndicate of sportsmen,” spent the winter seasons of the decade golfing, fishing, hunting, fox hunting with hounds, and playing polo.



The Hunt at Overhills



The hunt was an important sporting activity for the elite guests of the Overhills Club. The hunt stable complex for Overhills consisted of formally arranged, brick horse stables and frame dog kennels constructed circa 1924. The two U-shaped buildings were oriented to the Great Circus, where riders and dogs would meet before beginning the fox hunt. The hunt procession began through the west pylons

The Overhills Historic District
of the Great Circus.

The Roaring Twenties

The 1928 membership list numbered fourteen men, all rich, northern businessmen and all but one from New York City. These men and their families and guests stayed at the clubhouse or at the cottages of Rockefeller and Harriman, which by 1929 included Croatan, a two story, red brick Colonial Revival residence commissioned by Isabel Rockefeller and designed by the New York architectural firm of Hiss and Weeks. The winter season began in December and lingered on until Easter when the last visitors

ga
tr



Clubhouse
(demolished 1945)

Harriman
Cottage

The Covert
(demolished c1950)

The Rockefellers Move into the 1930s

1933		
DATE	NAME	RESIDENCE
8 April	Cyprian Farris.	London - England
8 April	Henry d. James	DO
April 14 th - 23 rd	Mr & Mrs John D. Rockefeller 3 rd	New York City
May - 6 - 9:33	Ruth Jacobsbuch	Greenwich - Conn
May - 6 to 9:33	Louise Trachentrod	New York City
May 9 th - 16	Jean Ross Bruclean.	
Thanksgiving	Mr. Mark	Lake Forest, Ill.
Nov. 30 - Dec 3	Sytha M. Ehret	Ittan. Pa.
" "	Alvin Ehret	" "
" "	Tom Howell	New York City
" "	Anna W. Rockefeller.	Greenwich. Conn.
	A. R. Bell	" "

The Rockefellers Move into the 1930s

The heyday of Overhills as a sportsmen's retreat ended with the Great Depression. The number of guests dwindled after the 1929-1930 season, and the final party departed Overhills in early 1932. Percy Rockefeller died in 1934, followed two years later by his wife, Isabel, and in 1937, the last fox hunt was held at Overhills. By the late 1930s, after a decade of Rockefeller's financial backing and his own acquisitions of land around the estate, Overhills had become the family's private resort.



The Overhills Historic District

The Rockefeller Estate, 1938-1993

Following the deaths of Percy and Isabel Rockefeller, Overhills underwent a series of major changes that continued into the postwar years. In 1938, the five Rockefeller children, who had inherited the property, formed a family-owned holding company, Overhills Farms, Inc. Avery Rockefeller, the only son, served as corporation president, assuming his father's managerial role of the estate.

After the second World War, Avery Rockefeller oversaw the demolitions of both the Overhills clubhouse (1945) and Covert (early 1950s), citing maintenance costs as the justification. But he also commissioned the construction of a host of service and agricultural buildings as well as three family cottages, Sycamore (1949), Cherokee (1955), and Bird Song (1963). Avery Rockefeller himself designed The Overhills Historic District

Rockefeller Buildings, 1940-1950



SYCAMORE

- **1,815 SF**
- **Built In 1949**
- **Built For Avery Rockefeller's Sister Winifred R. Emer**
- **3 Bedrooms With 3 Full Baths**

Rockefeller Buildings, 1950-1960

CHEROKEE

- **Built In 1954-1955**
- **Built By Avery Rockefeller For His Own Use Until Bird Song Was Completed**
- **3,840 SF**
- **6 Bedrooms**
- **4 Full Baths**
- **2 Half Baths**



Rockefeller Buildings, 1960-1970



BIRD SONG

- **Built 1962-1963**
- **10,649 SF**
- **20 Rooms+**
- **14 Bedrooms**
- **14 Baths**

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The Rockefeller Estate, 1993-1997



The Overhills Historic District

The Rockefeller Estate, 1993-1997



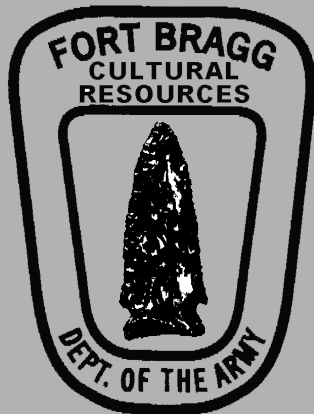
The Overhills Historic District

The Future of the Overhills Estate

Between 1997 and 2000, the Army conducted surveys of the archaeological, architectural, natural, and environmental resources on the Overhills property. As part of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the surveys defined resources that may be adversely effected by planned military training. Currently, only low-impact (non-destructive) military training is allowed. The EIS process will also investigate possible adaptive re-use plans for the structures and resort grounds. A Record of Decision concerning The Overhills Historic District

The Overhills Historic District

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